# Lewu language

**Lewu 乐舞** is an unclassified extinct Loloish language of Jingdong Yi Autonomous County, Yunnan, China. The Lewu are officially classified by the Chinese government as ethnic Yao people.

| Lewu | |
|---|---|
| **Native to** | China |
| **Region** | Yunnan |
| **Ethnicity** | Yao |
| **Native speakers** | (extinct cited 1985) |
| **Language family** | Sino-Tibetan<br>▪ (Tibeto-Burman)<br>▪ Lolo–Burmese<br>▪ Loloish<br>▪ Central Loloish?<br>▪ Lawoish?<br>▪ **Lewu** |
| **Language codes** | |
| **ISO 639-3** | *None* (mis) |
| **Glottolog** | *None* |

## Contents


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## Demographics

According to the *Jingdong County Almanac* (1994:519), ethnic Yao numbered 3,889 individuals in 1990, and lived mainly in Chaqing 岔箐[1] and Dasongshu 大松树[2] Villages of Taizhong Township 太忠乡. Yao language speakers, known as the Lewu Yao 乐舞瑶族, are found in Puya Village 普牙村, Chaqing Township 岔箐乡 (*Jingdong County Ethnic Gazetteer* 2012:144).[3][4][5]

## Classification

Lewu may have been related to the Lawu language of Xinping County, Yunnan, but classification remains uncertain due to the paucity of data.[6]

## Vocabulary

A word list of the Lewu Yao language is transcribed using pinyin in the *Jingdong County Ethnic Gazetteer* (2012:144-145). The language is already extinct, and was recorded in 1985 from 85-year-old Zhu Zhaojin 祝兆金 of Puya Village 普牙村, who could remember only some words.

| Chinese gloss | English gloss | Lewu | Page |
|---|---|---|---|
| 吃饭 | eat rice | zuǒ zuó liē | 144 |
| 猪心肺 | pig heart and lungs | cī ber | 144 |
| 这里来 | come (from) here | wū lài lai | 144 |
| 什么东西 | What thing? | māi yuō | 144 |
| 蚕豆 | broad bean (*Vicia faba*) | nuó suō | 144 |
| 豌豆 | pea (*Pisum sativum*) | nuó sǎi | 144 |
| 回来，回来你回来 | come back, come back, you come back | gǔ lāi gǔ lai gǔ lāi | 144 |
| 白酒 | liquor | zhī zhí | 144 |
| 清酒 | rice wine | a zhì | 144 |
| 筷子 | chopsticks | a zhu | 144 |
| 刀 | knife | biě tuo | 145 |
| 斧子 | axe | shì cuo | 145 |
| 碗 | bowl | lin hua | 145 |
| 勺 | spoon | yì geu | 145 |
| 打 | to hit | ch wō | 145 |
| 没有了 | There is no more. | mā ia lāi | 145 |

# References


1. "景东彝族自治县太忠乡岔箐村委会" (http://www.ynszxc.gov.cn/villagePage/vIndex.aspx?departmentid=217095). *ynszxc.gov.cn*. Retrieved 2017-12-30.
2. "景东彝族自治县太忠乡大松树村委会" (http://www.ynszxc.gov.cn/villagePage/vIndex.aspx?departmentid=217070). *ynszxc.gov.cn*. Retrieved 2017-12-30.
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6. Hsiu, Andrew. 2017. *The Lawu languages: footprints along the Red River valley corridor (https://zenodo.org/record/1249178/files/Lawu_languages.pdf)*.

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